

WE CLAIM:

1. A monitor for sensing and transmitting sounds in a baby's vicinity, comprising:

a housing having a base and two substantially spaced-apart legs, the housing enclosing acoustical means and electrical means for, respectively, sensing and transmitting the sounds; and

the monitor being mountable on a support by straddling the support with the spaced-apart legs.

2. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein the housing is U-shaped with the substantially spaced-apart legs being essentially of equal length and essentially parallel to each other.

3. The monitor of Claim 1, further including a securing mechanism.

4. The monitor of Claim 3, wherein the securing mechanism includes a detent resiliently mounted on the housing, the detent recessing into the housing upon contact with the support and retracting back after the detent passes the support to releasably secure the housing on the support.

5. The monitor of Claim 4, wherein one of the substantially spaced-apart legs is of sufficient length to substantially overlap the detent on an opposite spaced-apart leg.

6. The monitor of Claim 4, wherein the detent has a cam surface to engage the support.

7. The monitor of Claim 4, wherein the detent has a locking surface to secure the housing on the support.

8. The monitor of Claim 4, wherein the detent is resiliently mounted on at least one of the spaced-apart legs.

9. The monitor of Claim 4, wherein when the monitor is to be dismounted, the detent is depressed an amount such that the monitor is unsecured and removable from around the support.

10. The monitor of Claim 3, wherein the securing mechanism includes resilient material mounted on at least one leg, the resilient material permitting a releasable securing of the monitor on the support.

11. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein the acoustical means includes a microphone to detect the sounds.

12. The monitor of Claims 1, wherein the electrical means includes at least one device to convert and transmit the sounds to a remotely located receiver.

13. The monitor of Claim 1, further including at least one battery in the housing.

14. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein the at least one battery is rechargeable.

15. The monitor of Claim 13, wherein the housing includes charging contacts to re-energize the at least one rechargeable battery when the monitor is mated with a charger.

16. The monitor of Claim 15, wherein the housing further includes openings for the charging contacts of the housing, the openings adapted to mate with bosses on the charger, each boss adapted to fit into a respectively configured opening of the housing for polarity reasons, thereby permitting a matching of the contacts of the charger with the respective contacts of the monitor.

17. The monitor of Claim 1, further including a switch permitting a selection of monitor transmitting frequencies.

18. The monitor of Claim 14, further including at least one indicator light showing a power status of the at least one rechargeable battery.

19. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein at least one leg includes at least one indentation, the at least one indentation adapted to mate with at least one protrusion on a charger, such mating permitting the monitor to be aligned on the charger.

20. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein at least one leg includes at least one protrusion, the at least one protrusion adapted to mate with at least one indentation on a charger, such mating permitting the monitor to be mounted on the charger.

21. The monitor of Claim 1, wherein the electrical means is located in the base, the acoustical means is located in one of the spaced-apart legs, and the at least one battery is located in the other spaced-apart leg and connected to the electrical means.

22. The monitor of Claim 21, wherein the housing further includes openings for the charging contacts of the housing, the openings adapted to mate with bosses on the charger, each boss adapted to fit into a respectively configured opening of the housing for polarity reasons, thereby permitting a matching of the contacts of the charger with the respective contacts of the monitor.

23. A sound monitoring system, for sensing, transmitting and receiving sounds in a baby's vicinity, comprising:

a monitor, including a housing having a base and two substantially spaced-apart legs, the housing enclosing acoustical means and electrical means for, respectively, sensing and transmitting sounds, and the monitor being mountable on a support by straddling the support with the substantially spaced-apart legs;

a receiver, remotely located from the monitor, and configured to receive the sounds from the monitor and to announce the sounds out loud; and

a charger having contacts, and configured to mountably receive and re-energize the monitor.

24. The system of Claim 23, further including a securing mechanism.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the securing mechanism includes a detent resiliently mounted on the housing, the detent recessing into the housing upon contact with the support and retracting back after the detent passes the support to releasably secure the housing on the support.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the detent is resiliently mounted on at least one of the spaced-apart legs.

27. The system of Claim 23, wherein at least one leg includes at least one indentation, the at least one indentation adapted to mate with at least one protrusion on a charger, such mating permitting the monitor to be mounted on the charger.

28. The system of Claim 23, wherein at least one leg includes at least one protrusion, the at least one protrusion adapted to mate with at least one indentation on a charger, such mating permitting the monitor to be mounted on the charger.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein the at least one protrusion and the at least one indentation are on, respectively, only one side of the charger and the monitor for polarity reasons.

30. The system of Claim 23, wherein the receiver includes an indication of whether the receiver is within a range to receive transmitted sounds from the monitor.

31. The system of Claim 23, wherein the receiver includes a switch to select one of at least two frequencies of the transmitted sounds.

32. A method of securely and releasably mounting a monitor to a support, the steps comprising:

providing a monitor that senses and transmits sounds in a baby's vicinity, the monitor including a housing having a base, two substantially spaced-apart legs and a securing mechanism, and the housing enclosing acoustical and electrical means for, respectively, sensing and transmitting the sounds, and the securing mechanism having a resiliently mounted detent;

straddling the support with the substantially spaced-apart legs; engaging the resiliently mounted detent with the support, thereby recessing the resiliently mounted detent into the housing; and

pushing the substantially spaced-apart legs around the support until the resiliently mounted detent retracts back after the detent passes the support, thereby releasably securing the monitor to the support.